

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) A personal electronic product comprising a surface that is exposed for viewing by a user when the product is in use,

an electronically controllable active display area on the surface, the display area including an array of interference modulators of light on the surface, the display area enabling display of graphical images of saturated color, the display area providing a display portion of an interactive graphical user interface to the user

control elements that provide a control portion of the interactive graphical user interface, and

a controller connected to the display area and to the control elements and adapted to control the graphical user interface and its appearance and to provide other functions.

Claims 21-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71 in which the surface comprises a face of a time keeping device.

26. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 68 or 69 in which the surface comprises a portion of an article of clothing.

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 68 or 69 in which the surface comprises a surface of a sporting good.

Claims 29-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 20 wherein the array also provides information.

33. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 68 or 69 wherein the display elements comprise liquid crystal, field emission, plasma, organic emitter or other light modulation devices.

Claims 34-39 (Cancelled)

40. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 20, 68, or 69 further comprising a sensor for determining a state of use of the product and wherein the controller makes a selection based on the state of use.

41. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 40 in which the state of use is derived from an internal status of the product or the result of a completed internal process.

42. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 40 further comprising an internal sensor, and in which the state of use is derived from the internal sensor.

43. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 42 in which the internal sensor senses a characteristic which is internal to the product.

44. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 42 in which the internal sensor senses a characteristic which is external to the product.

45. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 40 in which the state of use is derived from an external source.

46. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 20, 68, or 69 in which a portion of the surface comprises a component incorporated within or on the surface and in which the active display area is on the component.

47. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 40 in which the state of use comprises a state of a process performed by the product.

48. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 68 or 69 further comprising a player of a recorded medium.

49. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 48 in which the medium comprises a compact disk.

50. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 40 in which the state of use comprises vibration.

51. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 40 in which the state of use comprises temperature.

52. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 40 in which the state of use comprises a mode of use.

53. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 52 in which the mode of use comprises speed of use of an athletic device.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 in which the mode of use comprises strength of stride.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 in which the array spans a substantial portion of the surface.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 in which the appearances include decorative images.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 in which the appearances include areas of variable color and/or brightness.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 further comprising
an interface that enables the user to determine which of the appearances is selected.

59. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 69 in which information about an appearance that may be selected is received from a source external to the product.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71 in which the surface comprises a surface of a personal digital assistant.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71 in which the surface comprises a surface of a household appliance.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 in which the surface comprises a surface of a motor vehicle.

63. (Withdrawn) A product comprising
a housing having a surface that is exposed for viewing by a user when the product is in use,

an electronically controllable active display area on the surface, wherein the display area comprises a substantial portion of the surface of housing, and is capable of effecting different selectable appearances to the surface that are noticeable to the user,

a sensor for determining a state of use of the product,

a controller connected to the display area for selecting one of the appearances to reflect the state of use,

an interface that enables the user to instruct the controller with respect to which of the appearances to select, and

wherein information about appearances that may be selected, is received from a source external to the product.

64. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 66 in which one portion of the surface comprises a separate component incorporated with the housing and in which the active display area is on the separate component.

65. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
enabling a display area to impart different selectable appearances to a surface that is exposed for viewing by a user when a product is in use, the surface including an electronically controllable active display area that includes an array of interference modulators of light on the surface, the display area providing an image at the surface, wherein the interference modulators within the array comprise an absorber layer spaced apart from a reflector by an interferometric cavity; and

selecting one of the appearances to reflect a state of use of the product.

66. (Currently Amended) A product comprising:
a housing having a surface that is exposed for viewing by a user when the product is in use,

an electronically controllable active display area on the surface, the display area including an array of interference modulators of light on the surface, wherein the interference modulators comprise an absorber layer spaced apart from a reflector by an interferometric cavity, the display area providing an image at the surface, the display area being capable of effecting different selectable appearances to the surface that are noticeable to the user, and

a controller having a port for receiving information defining the different selectable appearances from an external source, the controller being connected to the display area for selecting one of the appearances for display and for causing the selected appearances to be displayed to the user.

67. (Currently Amended) An object whose surface is modulated by virtue of the fabrication of an array of interferometric modulation elements on its surface, wherein the interferometric modulation elements comprise an interferometric cavity for causing interference modulation of the light.

68. (Withdrawn) A consumer product comprising

a surface that is exposed for viewing by a user when the product is in use, an electronically controllable active display area on the surface, an element that performs a function for a user of the device, and

a controller that causes the active display to impart to the product an appearance that varies based on the state of use of the product and that is noticeable to the user separately from information that may be conveyed by the active display.

69. (Withdrawn) A consumer product comprising
a surface that is exposed for viewing by a user when the product is in use,
an electronically controllable active display area on the surface, the active display area including an array of display elements that can be controlled independently, and

a control element that enables a user to select an arbitrary appearance to be imparted to the product by controlling the display elements of the active display area in accordance with the user's selection, the arbitrary appearance of the product being noticeable to the user separately from information that may be conveyed by the active display.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 in which the appearance comprises iridescence.

71. (Currently Amended) A method of use with a product that includes an array of interference modulators of light on a surface of the product, the method comprising

causing the product to perform a non-data processing operation or to be subjected to a non-data processing use by a user, the non-data processing operation or use having a condition that changes in the course of the operation or use,

detecting the occurrence of a change in the condition, in response to the occurrence of the change in condition, selecting one of at least two different overall product appearances to indicate the occurrence to the user, and

controlling the array of interference modulators to impart the selected overall product appearance to the product, wherein controlling the array of interference modulators comprises controlling the position of a reflective layer relative to an absorber layer to alter the size of an interferometric cavity located between the reflective layer and the absorber layer.

72. (Withdrawn) A product, comprising:
a body having a visible surface; and

a display device to impart an aesthetic effect to at least part of the visible surface.

73. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 72, which is an electronic product, wherein the display device additionally conveys information to a user.

74. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 73, wherein the information relates to a state associated with the product.

75. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 74, wherein the state relates to a state of use of the product.

76. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 73, wherein the state relates to a state of processing reached by the product.

77. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 74, wherein the state relates to a parameter associated with the product selected from the group consisting of a physical vibration experienced by the product, a temperature of the product, and a speed at which the product is traveling.

78. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 72, wherein the display device covers a substantial portion of the visible surface.

79. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 72, which is an article of clothing.

80. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 72, which is a personal electronic product.

81. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 72, which is an automobile.

82. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 72, which is an appliance.

83. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 77, wherein the aesthetic effect changes based on the state associated with the product.

84. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 72, wherein the display device comprises an array of interference modulation elements.

85. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 84, wherein the aesthetic effect comprises a change in a color of the display device sympathetic to a change in a viewing angle at which the product is viewed.